1854MNRAS..14..190W

Observations of the Solar Spots made at the Observatory of Berne during the year 1853. By Prof. Wolf.

1853.	Days of Observation.	Days free of Spots.	Number of new Groups during the Month.
January	21	0	14
February	15	0	10
March	24	1	9
April	21	0	9
May	27	0	8
June	20	0	9
July	27	0	11
August	30	0	14
September	24	1	11
October	24	0	9
November	14	0	6
December	15	0	7
	263	2	117

The following table contains a synopsis of the condition of the sun in respect to the spots during the last five years, one-tenth of the number of spots being added to the number of groups corresponding to each day's observation (in order to take into account the magnitude of the groups):—

	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.
January	17	10	9	8	4
February	14	10	10	6	5
March	10	9	7	7	4
April	11	4	6	7	5
May	10	5	7	5	4
June	10	11	6	5	5
July	9	5	3	5	5
August	7	7	6	4	5
September	10	9	7	4	3
October	9	9	6	10	5
November	12	5	6	6	3
December	10	5	7	5	3
Annual Number	129	89	80	72	51

"These numbers indicate the approach of a minimum, which, I feel confident, will occur about the year 1855 or 1856, when, according to my determination of the period of the solar spots, such a minimum might be expected."

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Sir Francis Beaufort recently forwarded from the Admiralty a very beautiful chart of the path of Comet II., 1853, as seen at Lord Howe's Island (lat. 31° 31′ 38″ S. and long. 159° 5′ 21″ E.), which was executed by Mr. J. Glen Wilson, H.M.S. Herald. The position of the comet for each day was laid down from angles taken with a sextant between it and the stars *Orion*, *Procyon*, and *Sirius*. The chart exhibits the course of the comet through the stars from the 1st to the 8th of May, when it ceased to be visible.

Elements of Amphitrite. By M. Yvon Villarceau.

Epoch, 1854, March 0·0, M.T. Paris.

	° ′ ″	
Mean Anomaly	114 36 54·58	
Longitude of the Perihelion	64 50 22·81	Mean Equinox of 1854, March 0·0.
Longitude of Ascending Node	356 20 34·94	
Inclination	6 6 19·69	
Angle of Excentricity	4 34 47·04	
Mean Diurnal Motion	864″·3666	
Semi-major Axis	2·5637307	
Period of Revolution	4yrs·104962	

These elements are founded on the observations of the planet made at the Royal Observatory of Paris during the month of March, including the two original observations of Regent's Park. The method employed is that which is explained in the *Connaissance des Temps* for 1852. Nine normal positions of the planet were made use of. The following is a comparison of the elements with three of these positions:—

	Obs. – Cal.	
	Δ R.A.	Δ Decl.
	s	″
March 1·5	+0·22	+0·9
12·5	+0·13	−1·7
27·5	−0·24	−1·6

In a note upon the comet recently observed, which appears in the *Comptes Rendus* for April 3, 1854, M. Laugier states that M. Alfred de Menciaux, a gentleman residing near Damazan, in the south of France, announced to him that, on the 23d of March, about four o'clock in the *morning*, he perceived a magnificent comet situate due east. The vertical of the comet appeared to be a little more northerly than that of the sun at rising. The tail was almost perpendicular to the horizon, but inclined slightly towards the north. M. Laugier found that a corresponding position of the comet, which afterwards became generally visible on the *evening* of the 29th of March, computed from the elements of its orbit, as deduced by him, afforded a satisfactory account of the observation of M. Menciaux.

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